

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,  
PRESIDING OFFICER

VETERANS AND SENIOR AFFAIRS

DONALD MACKENZIE,  
CHAIRMAN

Executive Building  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York

March 10, 2014  
3:27 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES  
516-747-7353

A P P E A R A N C E S :

DONALD MACKENZIE  
Chair

ROSE MARIE WALKER  
Vice-Chair

DENNIS DUNNE

VINCENT MUSCARELLA

CARRIE SOLAGES  
Ranking

ELLEN BIRNBAUM

LAURA CURRAN

LIST OF SPEAKERS

GREG MAY. . . . . 6  
MICHAEL SCHLENOFF . . . . . 8

CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: I call the Veterans and Senior Affairs Committee to order. I ask the Clerk to call the roll.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Curran?

LEGISLATOR CURRAN: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Birnbaum?

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Ranking Member Solages?

He's here.

Legislator Muscarella?

LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Legislator Dunne?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Vice Chairwoman Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

CLERK MULLER: Chairman MacKenzie?

CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Here.

CLERK MULLER: We have a quorum.

We have one item on the agenda for today. Clerk Item 84-14 is an ordinance amending ordinance Number 199-2011, an ordinance repealing Ordinance Number 188-2010, as amended, establishing fees to be charged by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums, in relation to

the active duty military and veterans leisure passport; and making certain determinations pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Second?

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I have a comment.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: If I may. I wanted to make a comment as well.

CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: We just wanted to point out that this was a bipartisan effort on behalf of legislation proposed by Legislator Birnbaum and amended to make some small changes by the Majority. And we're very happy that both sides of the aisle to take part in this legislation to help veterans. It's going to help Nassau County residents who are active duty military or veterans to obtain county resident leisure passes from the Department of Parks and Recreation for a one-time fee of \$25. It would be the same benefits conferred on people with veterans' passport. The leisure passport was limited to veterans only and required a \$25 fee every three years. The proposed leisure passport

is more inclusive and would also include active duty military personnel. And I apologize. Ms. Birnbaum, if you would like to make some comments.

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Thank you. Yes. I'm proud to have brought this legislation forth. It will now bring veterans in line with the senior citizen's rates that are being charged. The inclusion of active military personnel is great. But I would recommend keeping the leisure pass saying veterans and then having a separate one for active military duty. That when those active are no longer, they can convert to a veteran's pass showing the proper identification.

CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: I'm sorry. Just to clarify. Can we have a motion?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Motion by Legislator Dunne, and a second by Legislator Walker.

Any debate or discussion?

MR. MAY: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Yes.

MR. MAY: I just wanted to note that the county executive's office is looking to work with obviously both sides of the aisle on this. As far as the active duty leisure pass, the language that we're looking at is to make the active duty military ID that our service men and women have, that that would automatically count as a leisure passport. That they would not have to pay a fee or get a separate ID. They would go ahead and use their active duty military ID.

CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Tell the county executive thank you on behalf of --

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: I understand that. But my point is that veterans are very proud to have a card that says veterans. So many people already do have that card that says veterans. Just a separate card for the active military duty, that when they're finished serving they can then get a veterans one.

MR. MAY: Yes. We agree. It wouldn't be in place of a veteran's passport. It would be probably a separate line on the ordinance where it would say active duty military personnel can show their ID, no matter what branch of the

military they're from, and that would be, for all intents and purposes, be a leisure passport.

Obviously, we have active duty military stationed in Nassau County from all over the country. It's just a benefit to our active duty military personnel.

LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Okay.

CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: It's my understanding we have a public speaker. Michael Schlenoff from the Syosset American Legion.

MR. SCHLENOFF: Michael Schlenoff, 28 Parkway Drive, Syosset. I am the Vice Commander and Judge Advocate of Post 1812 of the American Legion and the Judge Advocate of Plainview Post 5942 of the VFW, and we are very much in favor of this legislation.

CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Thank you, sir, for coming here today.

Any other public comment?

(No verbal response.)

I'm sorry. Legislator Solages.

LEGISLATOR SOLAGES: Thank you. I just would like to commend Legislator Birnbaum for this piece of legislation. This is a great idea

2 and a small way to repair our veterans and our  
3 active duty for all their service and for all the  
4 dedication they have committed to our country and  
5 to our nation.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Thank you.

8 All those in favor of the item?

9 (Aye.)

10 Any opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 Unanimously passed, and a great  
13 bipartisan effort to help our veterans.

14 No further business before the committee.

15 Can I have a motion to adjourn?

16 LEGISLATOR WALKER: So moved.

17 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Legislator Walker.

18 Second?

19 LEGISLATOR MUSCARELLA: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN MACKENZIE: Legislator

21 Muscarella.

22 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

23 (Aye.)

24 We are adjourned.

25 (Whereupon, the Veterans' Affairs

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2 Committee adjourned at 3:06 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above mentioned and took stenographic record of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript of the same and the whole thereof, according to the best of my ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of March, 2014.

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FRANK GRAY